

COOPERATIVE FORECASTING GROUP

October 24, 2018
Columbia Association
Columbia, Maryland 21046
9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

MINUTES

Chairperson, Ms. Jamie Williams, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Following a round of introductions, Mr. Dan Rooney moved the approval of the minutes of the August 22, 2018 meeting and Ms. Kui Zhao seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. ROUND 9A – STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Shawn Kimberly, BMC staff, explained that the forthcoming long-range transportation plan update, *Maximize2045*, is scheduled to be presented to the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) for adoption in the summer of 2019. The update requires the integration of the most recent demographic forecasts into the planning process. The Round 9 demographic forecasts, endorsed by the BRTB in June 2018, is the data set utilized in the plan update. Mr. Kimberly stated that because Round 9 is the data set included in the long-range transportation plan update, the BRTB would not consider endorsing a revision to the demographic data set until the long-range plan has been adopted. Mr. Kimberly asked if any jurisdictions planned to submit updates to the Round 9 forecasts, considering that the data set would not be submitted to the BRTB for approval until the end of the summer 2019. Representatives from each jurisdiction present stated that they did not plan to submit an update.

Mr. Kimberly asked the CFG membership where their jurisdictions were in their respective comprehensive plan and rezoning processes. Mr. Rick Fisher (Anne Arundel County) stated that they are working on both the comprehensive plan and rezoning processes, and anticipate completing them in 2019. Ms. Williams (Baltimore City) stated that Baltimore City completed their rezoning process in June of 2017, and that the master plan is expected to be updated by 2020 (it was last updated in 2009). Ms. Zhao (Baltimore County) said that their county charter requires the master plan to be updated at least every ten years, and that the presence of a new county executive may play a role in the timing of the next update. Ms. Zhao added that the most recent comprehensive rezoning was adopted in August 2016, and that the next update is scheduled for completion in 2020. Mr. Arco Sen (Carroll County) said that the Master plan was most recently updated in 2014, and that they are currently in the process of updating their

comprehensive rezoning. Mr. Rooney (Harford County) stated that they had just completed their comprehensive plan update in 2016 and their rezoning in 2017. Mr. Jeff Bronow (Howard County) said that their general plan had last been updated in 2012, and that the next update is expected in 2020 or 2021. Their last comprehensive rezoning was in 2013, and they are in the middle of the process of a code rewrite of their zoning and subdivision regulations. The next comprehensive rezoning will follow the code rewrite.

Finally, Mr. Kimberly informed the group that there would be a joint meeting of the Technical Committee and BRTB members on November 20. A portion of that meeting is dedicated to the consideration of proposed Unified Planning Work Program subarea project ideas for fiscal year 2020. Mr. Kimberly advised that if the CFG members have any suggestions for subarea projects, that they contact their respective Technical Committee or BRTB members prior to November 20.

3. DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA PLAN

Mr. Bronow provided opening remarks and a brief overview of the history of Columbia. He explained that the development of Columbia began in the 1960s, and was originally intended to be finished in the 1980s. However, it was not until the late 1990s that the last of the villages was completed. While the greater Columbia community was largely complete by 2000, the downtown area was perceived by some as “unfinished.” The Rouse Company began work on a downtown Columbia plan in the early 2000s that called for approximately 1,600 residential units and a modest amount of commercial space. The community and county council were not impressed with the plan, and it was rejected. In 2005, the Department of Planning and Zoning held a charrette on the development of downtown Columbia that included community participation. The charrette was followed by a task force, which led to the adoption of a community vision in 2007, and ultimately to the Downtown Columbia Plan of 2010. The plan called for a development monitoring report to be completed every five years.

Mr. James Wilkerson continued the presentation, and noted that the 2010 plan had been amended in 2016 with provisions added for affordable housing. He then focused on the monitoring report, providing details on each of its four key elements: development; transportation and transit; arts and culture; and environment and sustainability.

Mr. Wilkerson stated that the residential and commercial development element of the report was the first and largest. This section of the report examines each of the different neighborhoods of downtown Columbia, explores what the intent of the master plan was for each, measures what has happened to meet the goals set forth in the plan, and considers what lies ahead and remains to be accomplished. The transportation and transit section of the report focuses on road and interchange improvements, road design and complete streets, transit capacity and service improvements (including a multi-agency hub and a new transit center), parking considerations, and conditions for bicycle and pedestrian activity. Mr. Wilkerson said that arts and culture has always been an important part of Columbia, and that this continues in the narrative set forth in the downtown plan. The report identifies the five organizations that lead the arts and cultural activities in the downtown, and describes the addition of a new cultural park and cultural center, as well as the improvements planned for the venues that serve as Columbia’s core cultural attractions and as key economic drivers.

The environment and sustainability section of the report describes how the planned development will respect the natural features of downtown Columbia, and protect and enhance its natural resources. The sustainability program details a series of downtown-wide design guidelines intended to preserve public spaces and promote a healthy environment. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Wilkerson provided a list of resources for additional information pertaining to the Downtown Columbia Plan as well as current and planned development activity.

[PowerPoint: Downtown Columbia – Redevelopment Monitoring Report (2018)]

4. HISTORY OF COLUMBIA AND ARCHIVES TOUR

Ms. Lela Sewell-Williams, Columbia Association Archives Manager, provided a presentation on the history of Columbia, utilizing archival materials and selections from the personal papers of James Rouse. The presentation focused on the four goals James Rouse established for Columbia: to build a complete city; to respect the land; to provide for the growth of people; and to make a profit. Ms. Sewell-Williams provided details on the creation of the new town starting with the secretive land acquisition process, through the holistic approach taken in the development of the original plans, and the dedication of Columbia at Wilde Lake in June of 1967. She explained how the planning process involved not only urban planners, but also a “Work Group” consisting of experts in the social sciences to incorporate innovations in education, recreation, religion, transportation, health care, and the arts. By 1985, the Rouse Company was able to purchase its shares back from the Connecticut General Life Insurance Company (an original investor in the project) and become the owner of the planned community of Columbia. Later, in 2004, the Rouse Company was sold to General Growth Properties in a deal valued at \$12.6 billion. After General Growth Properties filed for bankruptcy and reorganized, the mall remained with the company while the bulk of their Columbia holdings became a part of the Howard Hughes Corporation.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Sewell-Williams introduced Robin Emich, Columbia Archives Archivist, who provided the CFG members with a tour of the archives and presented a selection of the original maps and documents held at the facility.

The meeting was closed at 11:15 am, after the tour of the archives.

NEXT MEETING – December 19, 2018

ATTENDANCE

Members

Krishna Akundi – Maryland Department of Planning
Jeff Bronow – Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
Chris Davis – Baltimore County Department of Planning
Rick Fisher – Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning

Greg Goodwin – Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Dan Rooney – Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning
Arco Sen – Carroll County Department of Planning
James Wilkerson - Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
Jamie Williams – Baltimore City Department of Planning
Kui Zhao – Baltimore County Department of Planning

Staff and Guests

Charles Baber - Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Blake Fisher – BMC
Shawn Kimberly – BMC